



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

To Our Valued Stakeholders and Customers:

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to maintain a healthful and safe environment for the people of Louisiana. To accomplish its mission, the Department recruits, hires, and trains some of the most highly educated and motivated employees in state government--biologists, chemists, physicists, geologists, engineers, lawyers, environmental scientists, and other professionals dedicated to preserving and protecting Louisiana's environment.

The choice to work at DEQ is a commitment to excellence as well as to service in the public sector. Along with the privilege of serving the public come certain responsibilities and restrictions which are part of public service employment.

Public employees are required to comply with certain standards of conduct not required of employees in the private sector. Some of these standards are found in the Code of Governmental Ethics which prohibits any state employee from accepting anything of value, any gift, from a person (corporate or individual) with whom his agency does business.

It is natural (and perhaps even expected) that business relationships in the private sector be nurtured by gifts during the holiday season to show appreciation for the service provided throughout the year. Yet we in the public sector must strive to meet the standards expected of us all year round, even during the holiday season, by refusing to accept such traditional tokens of appreciation.

We ask that you help us meet the standards of the Code of Governmental Ethics and avoid even the appearance of impropriety by refraining from sending to our employees or bringing to the agency gifts of any kind (including food and drink).

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike M. McDaniel, Ph. D.
Secretary

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